



State Board of Equalization

# News Release

**Vice Chair Michelle Steel**

**3<sup>rd</sup> District – Rolling Hills Estates**

Kristine Cazadd  
Executive Director  
[www.boe.ca.gov](http://www.boe.ca.gov)

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**Contact: NR 21-12-S  
Jaime Garza  
916-327-8988**

## **CALIFORNIANS TIGHTEN THEIR WALLET AS GASOLINE PRICES SOAR** **Average Cost for Regular Gasoline Climbed 64 Cents in November**

**Sacramento** – Californians are feeling the pinch at the pump as gasoline prices jumped 20 percent in November prompting consumer consumption to dip 2.6 percent, according to a report released today by Michelle Steel, Vice Chair of the California State Board of Equalization (BOE).

Diesel fuel prices also increased 28 percent to \$4.25 as consumption fell 5.3 percent in November. Generally, diesel use follows economic activity and is closely related to construction and transportation of goods.

For nine months in a row – from March through November 2011 – Californians have cut down on the amount of gasoline they buy in the state. Contributing to this downward trend are likely high gasoline prices, driving more fuel efficient vehicles, taking alternative forms of transportation, as well as the slow economic recovery.

Californians used 1.169 billion gallons of gasoline in November 2011, a year-over-year decline of 2.6 percent. The average price for gasoline rose 64 cents to \$3.85 per gallon, a 20 percent increase compared to the average price of \$3.21 the previous year in California. Nationally, the average price for gasoline increased 53 cents to \$3.44, an 18 percent increase over the \$2.91 average price the year before.

Diesel fuel consumption in November 2011 totaled 196 million gallons, a decline of 5.3 percent compared to the same period the previous year when 207 million gallons of diesel were consumed. The average price for diesel rose 94 cents to \$4.25 per gallon, a 28 percent increase compared to \$3.31 per gallon the year before. Nationally, the average price for diesel jumped 82 cents to \$3.96 per gallon, which is a 26 percent increase over November 2010's average price of \$3.14 per gallon.

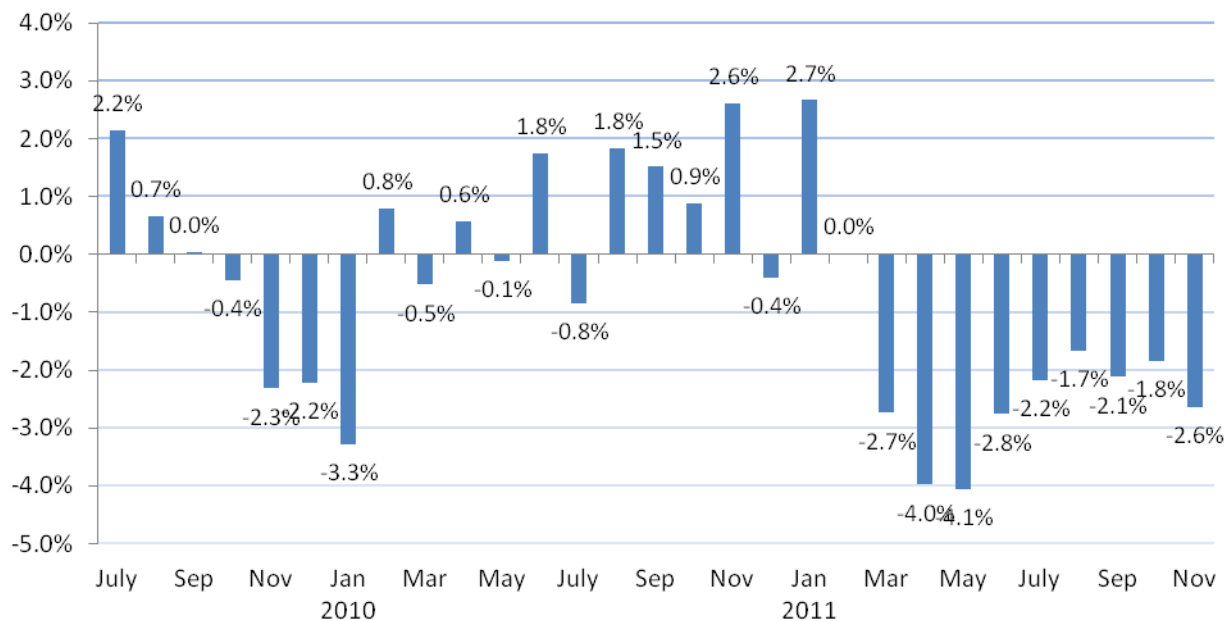
California gasoline and diesel fuel figures are net consumption, including audit assessments, refunds, amended and late tax returns, and the State Controller's Office refunds. BOE is able to monitor gallons through tax receipts paid by fuel distributors in California. BOE updates the fuel reports at the end of each month.

Fuel Statistics and Reports [www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/spftrpts.htm](http://www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/spftrpts.htm)

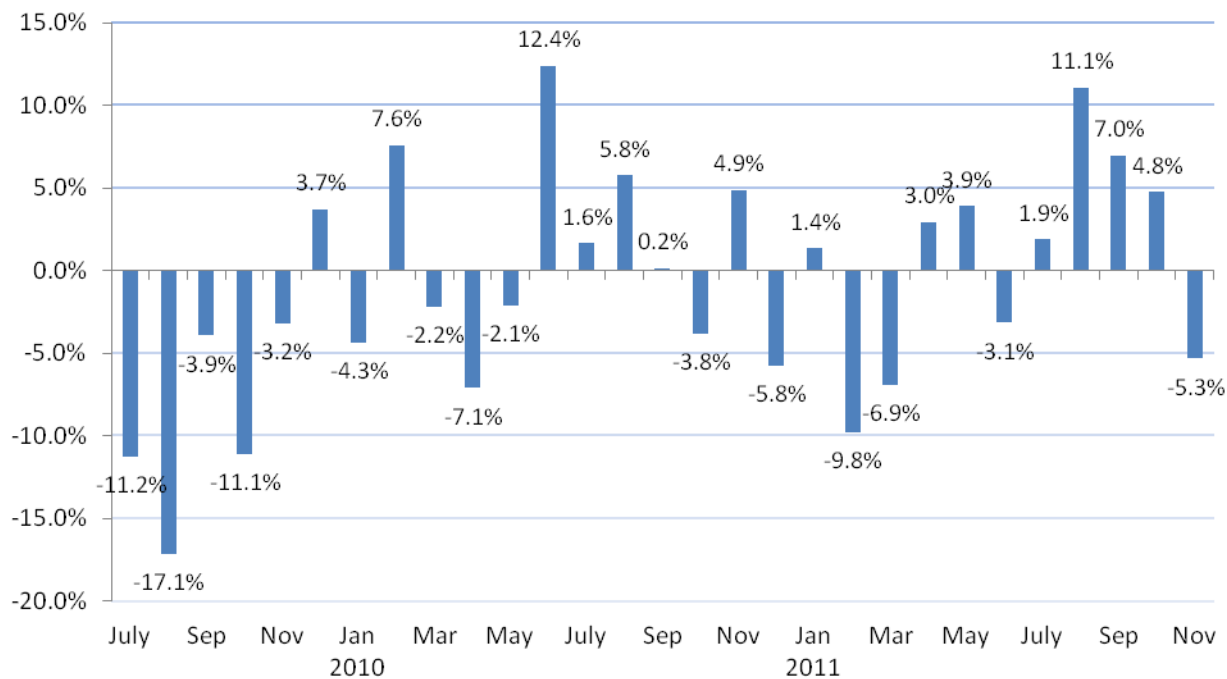
Taxable Gasoline Gallons Report: [www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/MVF\\_10\\_Year\\_Report.pdf](http://www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/MVF_10_Year_Report.pdf)

Taxable Diesel Gallons Report: [www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/Diesel\\_10\\_Year\\_Report.pdf](http://www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/Diesel_10_Year_Report.pdf)

## Percent Change in Gas Consumption Compared to Twelve Months Prior From July 2009 Through November 2011



## Percent Change in Diesel Gallons Compared to Twelve Months Prior From July 2009 Through November 2011



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Elected to the Board of Equalization in 2006 and re-elected in 2010, Michelle Steel serves as *Southern California's elected taxpayer advocate*. In December 2007, Steel discovered the Board of Equalization had delayed the return of millions of dollars in security deposits owed to California businesses. Procedures were changed due to Steel's decisive leadership. Following her investigation, the tax agency refunded tax security deposits to over 5,500 small businesses. To date, over \$100 million in security deposits have been returned to taxpayers.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than \$50 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit [www.taxes.ca.gov](http://www.taxes.ca.gov).

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